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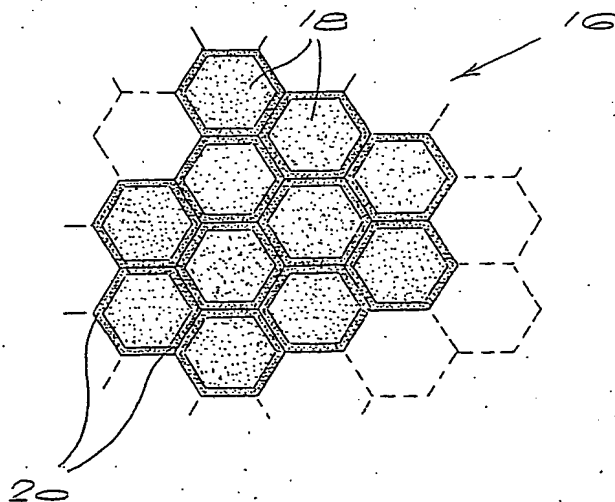
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(54) Title: COMPOSITE MATERIAL FOR DRILLING APPLICATIONS



(57) Abstract: A composite material consists of a plurality of cores dispersed in a matrix. The cores are formed of ultra-hard material, or the components for making an ultra-hard material. The matrix is formed of the components for making an ultra-hard material of a grade different to that of the cores, and a suitable binder. The ultra-hard material is polycrystalline in nature and is typically PCD or PcBN. The cores are typically provided as granules coated with the components for making an ultra-hard material and the binder. The composite material typically takes on a honeycomb structure of an ultra-hard material and cores within the pores of the honeycomb structure bonded to the honeycomb structure. The pores of the honeycomb structure may be ordered or random.